THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) It is not a fact that the felling of thousands of Chir trees in Pauri Garwal forest is still continuing in spite of Government's directives as per information from the State Government.

(b) The incident of felling of Chir trees in Pauri Garwal forest was investigated by the State Government and two hundred stumps of trees were found on the spot. These trees were felled by villagers for their bonafide domestic use, under the provision of Uttar Pradesh Protection of trees in rural & hill areas Act, 1976. Hence no action is due in this case.

2757. [Transferred to 26th August, 1993]

Amendment of Indian Forest Act

2758. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Forests Act is proposed to be amended by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Presently the Indian Forest Act, 1927 is the principal legislation which regulates the management of forests by the States. Since its adoption, forestry has undergone many conceptual changes leading to the new National Forest Policy in 1988. Consequently the need has been felt for a revised and more comprehensive legislation which would take into account the new National Forest Policy and the emerging imperatives of Conservatrion of Forests and Wildlife and preservation of nation's biodiversity.

Broadly speaking, the new provisions/amendments proposed fall into three catergories :

(1) Amendments to the existing provisions with a view to make them more effective.

(2) Incorporation of provisions which already exists in some of the states either by way of amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or by virtue of new Acts enacted by the states.

(3) New provisions which are required to give effect to the pronouncements made in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

A draft of the revised legislation has been circulated among the State Governments for their views before taking up the process of finalising the legislation.

Projects for Environmental Clearance in various sectors

2759. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of projects in various sectors approved by the Ministry during the last three years till date;

(b) the total number of projects which were granted environmental clearance during the same period; and

(c) the number of projects which were rejected during the same period and the reasons for rejection in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b)

Sector	No. of Projects Approved/Cleared between 1-8-90 and 31-5-93
Industry	77
Mining	61
River Valley	25
Nuclear Project and Allied Sector	5
Thermal Power	36
Miscellaneous	75
	279

(c) The total number of projects rejected between 1-8-90 and 31-7-93 is 86; 8 of these were rejected on merits, and 78 due to non-submission of requisite environmental and other data. Details are given in the statement.